

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 038017

R 081618Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5448

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB; ECONKG EI

SUBJECT: IRISH TRADE UNIONS APPROVE WAGE PACT

REF: DUBLIN 164, 209, DUBLIN A-21, MARCH 7, 1974

1. IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS VOTED APPROVAL OF REVISED TERMS FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENT (DUBLIN 209) AT SPECIAL CONFERENCE MARCH 7 (ORIGINAL PROPOSALS HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN LATE JANUARY (DUBLIN 164). DETAILS OF AGREEMENT WERE SPELLED OUT IN DUBLIN 209 AND WILL RAISE AVERAGE PAY BY ESTIMATED 18.3 PERCENT AFTER VARIOUS PHASES IMPLEMENTED. LOWER PAID WORKERS RECEIVE LARGEST GAINS.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT WAS ASSURED BY HEAVILY FAVORABLE VOTE BY LARGE IRISH-BASED UNIONS. VERBAL ASSURANCES BY PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE AND OTHER GOI MINISTERS TO TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP THAT TAX REFORMS, SUCH AS RAISING PERSONAL INCOME TAX ALLOWANCES (EXEMPTIONS IN AMERICAN PARLANCE) TO REFLECT CONTINUING HIGH LEVELS OF INFLATION, WOULD BE INCLUDED IN NEXT GOVERNMENT BUDGET (DUE TO BE SUBMITTED TO DAIL EARLY THIS SPRING)

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AND PUBLICATION OF GOI WHITE PAPER ON CAPITAL TAXATION (DUBLIN

A-21) UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN WINNING LABOR ACCEPT-
ANCE.

3. AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY INFLATIONARY BUT WILL PROVIDE VIRTUE
OF CONTINUED INDUSTRIAL STABILITY (REFTEL). IT WILL ALSO AVOID
POLITICAL BLOW TO GOVERNING COALITION OF FINE GAEL AND LABOUR
PARTIES. CAMPAIGN FOR AGREEMENT WAS VERY HARD FOUGHT, AND ONCE
ALMOST GIVEN UP FOR LOST. SORENSON

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Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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